

From prison, Peltier heard about Avent and wrote her a note on the inside cover of a book about Native Americans' legacy.

"All my sources indicated to me that you are the most powerful influence in the White House speaking for Native American issues," Peltier wrote.

He said he appreciated that someone of her "stature" would read about his case.

Much of Avent's outreach is personal. She fields as many as 60 calls a day from Indians and continues dispensing advice long after the workday has ended.

"Tribes have gotten so used to being ignored for so long that they could not believe someone is so kind to them," said Bunty Anquoe, a Washington-based reporter for Indian Country Today newspaper.

Avent invites tribal leaders to White House dinners and receptions and, when she can, to the president's box at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"Thank you a million times over for taking me as your guest to the White House last night," began a recent letter to Avent from Suzan Shown Harjo, president of the Washington-based Morning Star Institute, which promotes Indian cultural rights.

"My parents will be so thrilled that I was able to tell the president and first lady how very much they are admired and what they hope to offer for those of us Indian people who are the poor and mostly forgotten and left-out folks that the Democrats stand for."

CREDITS DAD FOR HER VALUES

Avent credits her work values to her father, who reared her alone after a divorce. He is a former elevator operator in one of the U.S. House office buildings.

A longtime resident of the nation's capital, Avent lobbied for the National Association of Counties, U.S. Conference of Mayors and other groups. She also ran a political consulting firm whose clients included the Clinton-Gore campaign.

She moved to Phoenix in 1988, mostly at the insistence of her husband, who said the laid-back lifestyle and weather would add years to their lives.

Avent's husband, Jacques Avent, a Phoenix deputy city manager, said his wife has been reaching out to "underdogs" most of her life.

"She does the underdog causes; those are the one that turn her on," he said.

In Phoenix, she helped coordinate the Harmony Alliance, which works at bringing disparate groups together.

Avent and her husband have known the Clintons for 20 years.

As a deputy assistant to the president for intergovernmental affairs, she is a liaison to Indians and local elected officials around the nation.

She admits being torn between her commitment to Indians and her sadness at being away from her husband.

"I can't be just a holiday spouse, nor do I want to be. I was only going to do this a year," she said.

But her job has become part of her.

Returning recently to her birthplace in South Hill, VA., Avent found herself thinking of her Indian friends.

"I was looking at where I grew up," she said. "I was born in the same house my father was. It made me understand what Indian people mean when they talk about Mother Earth."

IN RECOGNITION OF CARMEN TURNER

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to rise today to recognize an outstanding individual and public servant, the late Carmen Turner.

Many of you may remember Carmen from her days as the general manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, more commonly known as Metro, and as Under Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. However, you may not know how hard Carmen worked to turn her dream into reality. Born in New Jersey, Carmen and her family moved to Washington, DC, during her childhood. Carmen went on to graduate from Dunbar High School and then attended Howard University for 2 years before she left school to marry Frederick Turner.

Those of us, though, who knew and loved Carmen know she never left any task unfinished. Carmen went back to Howard to complete her undergraduate degree. Even more impressive is that she did this while working full time at the Department of the Army and raising two children. Following a stint at the U.S. Department of Transportation, Carmen joined Metro in 1977 and was promoted to general manager in 1983.

As general manager, Carmen played a substantial role into making Metrorail into the state-of-the-art subway system it is today. Under her leadership, Metrorail opened new stations in suburban Virginia and Maryland, as well as finalized plan for the Green Line, which will run through the heart of the District of Columbia. Her hard work paid off in 1990, as Congress passed legislation authorizing \$1.3 billion for the completion of the Metrorail system. Her service did not go unnoticed. In fact, in 1988 the American Public Transit Association [APTA] gave Carmen their Outstanding Achievement Award, and in 1989 named Carmen the Transit Manager of the Year.

Sadly, Carmen was taken from us far too soon, in 1992 at the age of 61. She is sorely missed by so many of us. However, the legacy will live on, as it should. On May 12, Metro dedicated a memorial at the Smithsonian Metrorail Station in Carmen's memory. It is a fitting tribute that her memorial will be at a station where so many people enjoy the convenience of Metrorail. While her absence will always be felt, like many others I am proud that Carmen has been memorialized in this fashion. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in celebrating Carmen Turner's life and career and recognizing her many accomplishments.

HONORING MORTON BLEETSTEIN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pleasure today to join with those most compassionate and dedicated people of the New Hope Community as they honor one of their most esteemed members, Morton Bleetstein.

I first met Morty when I started a small business, and Morty was a third-generation insurance broker. But I soon learned that he has other interests and talents that would significantly impact on others. In the fields of hope, compassion and concern, there are few to equal Morty Bleetstein.

As parents of two disabled children, Morty and his wife, Pat, took up the life challenge fate had thrust upon them, and embarked upon creating a service record of almost four decades on behalf of all disabled youngsters. Morty's early involvement led to the passage in New York State of legislation known as the Greenberg bill, which provides education for all disabled children.

As his own kids grew, so did his dedication: the Bleetsteins became original founders of the New York Association for Brain Injured Children. Morty Bleetstein also has proudly served as president of the New Hope Community Parents Group, and as a board member and fund raising chairman for New Hope.

Mr. Speaker, Morton Bleetstein has honored all humanity with his selfless dedication and perseverance on behalf of those who have nowhere else to turn. On May 20, the New Hope Community will honor Morty at a gala benefit in Flushing, Queens.

I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me now in paying tribute to a true humanitarian, Morton Bleetstein, and in extending to him the great appreciation of a most grateful nation.

TRIBUTE TO CLAIRE SCHULMAN

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 1995

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Kiwanis Club of LaGuardia Airport in paying tribute to Queens Borough President, Claire Schulman. Since 1986, Claire Schulman has served the people of Queens with distinction.

Mr. Speaker, Claire has been a tremendous instrument in ensuring that Queens continues to be one of the strongest communities in our country; her efforts are endless. Some of her greatest accomplishments as borough president include: Being a staunch advocate for the rights of the elderly and the children of Queens, ensuring quality health care for the residents of Queens, helping to buy Queens West, fighting to rebuild the Queens library, and ensuring city services are provided to the Borough of Queens.

Claire received her bachelor of science from Adelphi University; she was also awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree. In 1993, she received an honorary doctorate of sciences degree from the College of Aeronautics. In addition to these prestigious doctorates, she has also been honored with the Queens College Medal and the LaGuardia Community College Medal.

Mr. Speaker, Claire Schulman has not only served our community as a political leader, but as a health care provider, mother and wife. Before coming to politics, Claire served as a registered nurse at the Queens Hospital Center, where she also met her future husband, Dr. Melvin Schulman. Claire Schulman boasts a tremendous career as well as a spectacular